MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 JANUARY 1982

Egypt

Comment on Autonomy, Arab-Israeli Relations -- MENA reported that in an interview with NBC television, President Husni Mubarak said Egypt cannot make any concessions on Palestinian autonomy since the problem is not its own. He also asserted that Egypt will seek to settle Arab-Israeli differences through its friendly relations with Israel. Claiming that peace in the Middle East is attainable, a Cairo radio commentary said the three partners in the peace process should prepare the appropriate framework for settling the Palestinian question by formulating a draft declaration of principles on full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such a declaration must stipulate the full rights of the Palestinian people to manage their legislative, judicial and security affairs, the radio said, as a first step toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Describing Egypt's calculations regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict as "correct and sincere," the commentary declared Egypt does not seek to deprive others of the right to hold different views on the Arab-Israeli conflict, but holds up the result it managed to achieve as a "living example."

Cabinet Meeting -- According to MENA, the Cabinet met under Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to discuss economic, foreign and domestic policies. In a statement reported by MENA, Information Minister Safwat ash-Sharif said Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told the Cabinet that Egypt still differs with Israel over the status of Jerusalem and the control of the land in the occupied territories. Praising U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's role in bringing Egyptian-Israeli viewpoints closer, 'Ali noted that Haig will return to Israel and Egypt at the end of January. The information minister revealed that Egypt has agreed to pay Israel 134 million Egyptian pounds for the installations and utilities it will take over in the Sinai. Regarding domestic affairs, Ash-Sharif said Muhyi ad-Din told the Cabinet that the government's statement to the People's Assembly on 6 February will contain new policies.

Israel

Reaction to UN Vote -- In an interview carried by Jerusalem radio, Ambassador to the United Nations Yehuda Blum expressed Israel's displeasure at the abstention of Britian and France during the UN Security Council's vote on the draft resolution calling for the application of sanctions against Israel for its "annexation" of the Golan Heights. According to the interviewer, Blum was pleased with the U.S. veto.

Linowitz Activity -- Jerusalem radio reported that former U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz met Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and will meet Prime Minister Menahem Begin, to whom he will deliver a message frm Egyptian President Husni Mubarak covering substantive points.

Burg Interviews -- In an interview with Jerusalem radio, Interior Minister Yosef Burg said Egypt views autonomy as leading to an independent Palestinian state, whereas Israel views it as precluding the establishment of such a state. Burg contended that a Palestinian state would be under PLO influence and would receive instructions from Moscow and financing from Libya. He expressed his conviction that had the Arab ranks in the State of Israel and overseas not been "infected" by PLO terror, then moderate Arabs could have sat together with Israelis and worked out several important details in the autonomy plan. Burg acknowledged that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig tried during his recent visit to convince Israel to allow east Jerusalem Arabs to vote for the administrative council, but added that "this time" there was no pressure on the part of Haig. Burg admitted that he does not know how to bridge the gap between Israel and Egypt on voting rights for Jerusalem Arabs, but stressed that for practical, political, conceptual and symbolic reasons Israel cannot change its position on this issue.

In another Jerusalem radio interview, Burg focused on the existence of moderate Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He claimed that they constitute a significant part of

the population, especially in the villages, but that they are drowned out by a noisy minority on university campuses and by city youths and academics who lean more toward the radical side. He stressed that there were many PLO assassinations of moderates in the villages, and that this terror prevents moderates from openly discussing autonomy with the Israeli authorities. Nevertheless, he claimed that talks with them are existing and ongoing.

Lebanon

Security in South -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that IDF forces shelled two villages east of An-Nabatiyah. However, AFP noted that Israeli military spokesmen in Jerusalem denied the charge.

Al-Jumayyil on Percy Meeting -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported that after a meeting between Lebanese front leaders and U.S. Senator Charles Percy, Phalangist Party Leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said the Christian leaders noticed that the United States is putting its political weight behind a solution for the Lebanese crisis. "We hope that this time the results will be good and tangible," he added, "since we are about to despair from the initiatives and the various kinds of exploration tours."

Iran

Execution Announcements -- Citing an Islamic Revolution Guards Corps report, Tehran radio said 12 Mojahedin-e Khalq members and supporters were charged with armed uprising against the regime and sentenced to death in the Mashhad area. The guards in the Bojnurd area announced the execution of 11 people convicted of terrorist activities and waging war against the Islamic republican order.

Prosecutor on Prisoners -- Tehran radio reported that at a 19 January press conference in Tehran, that city's Revolutionary Prosecutor Asadollah Lajevardi said there are 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners connected with the minigroups in the country's jails. According to Lajevardi, those prisoners who are about 14 years old are "receiving guidance" and have never been subject to death sentences.

Attempt to Unite Resistance -- According to Paris LE MONDE, former Iranian Prime Minister 'Ali Amini called at a 19 January Paris press conference for all Iranian resistance groups to support his new movement for the liberation of Iran. The movement is open to all moderates, monarchists or not, who accept the seven points of his charter, including overthrow of the Khomeyni regime, return to the 1906 constitutional order pending a choice of new institutions by the people, restoration of freedoms without pressure exerted by foreign ideologies, a policy of nonalignment, and struggle against corruption and for economic recovery. The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio quoted Amini's statement at the press conference that the Iranian revolution had fallen into the hands of murderers and illiterate clergymen. In another report the radio said that Gen Bahram Aryana, who is "near the Iranian border with the military personnel under his command," cabled his support to 'Ali Amini.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi military communique published by INA stated that Iraqi planes raided enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the combat area, inflicting "grave losses" in personnel and equipment. An Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that the Iraqis subjected some of Gilan-e Gharb's residential districts to an air attack that killed or wounded 27 people and destroyed several houses. The communique also said Iraqi artillery bombarded Dezful and damaged some houses.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 014 *21 January 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

EGYPT

Cairo Paper Carries 'Letter' to Israel's Sharon D 1
President Mubarak To Visit Israel in February D 2
Nationalist Opposition Holds Third Conference D 3
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jan]
Linowitz Meets With Mubarak, Offers Counsel D 4
AL-AHRAM on Haig, Autonomy Negotiations [15 Jan] D 4
Commentator Sees Real Peace Within Reach D 6
Commentary Calls For U.S.-PLO Dialogue D 7
Defense Minister Views Sinai, U.S. Ties, Libya [MAY 18 Jan] D 8
Information Minister Reports Cabinet Meeting D 10
Japan To Increase Economic Aid By 23 Percent D 13

IRAQ

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 590 E 1
President Receives Message From Bahraini Amir E 1
Envoy Leaves E 2
Vice President Ma'ruf Pays Visit to Vietnam E 2
[cross-reference]
Briefs: INA-ADN Protocol E 2

LEBANON

Phalangist Leaders Discuss Percy Briefing G 1
Senator Percy Departs 20 Jan G 1

ISRAEL

Ambassador to UN on Security Council Vote I 1
Linowitz Interviewed on Autonomy Positions I 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algiers Reports on Algerian-Libyan Leaders' Talks Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech [Tripoli] Q 1

SUDAN

Industry Minister Addresses Political Leaders Q 3

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Minister Promotes 'Central Africanization' [AFP] S 1

CHAD

Hissein Habre Criticizes French 'Attitude' [AFP] S 1

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Nunoo-Mensah Gives Press Interview in Lagos T 1
PNDC Says 'Top Officials' Frustrating Committees T 1
Council Dismisses TIMES Deputy Director T 2

UPPER VOLTA

Minister Discusses Arrest of LIPAD Leaders T 3
Briefs: New Health Minister T 4

CAIRO PAPER CARRIES 'LETTER' TO ISRAEL'S SHARON

PM210913 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jan 82 p 7

[Zakariya Nil article: "Letter to General Sharon"]

[Excerpts] I would have wished not to address this letter to you just a few hours before you arrive in Cairo as its guest. But can I help it? Your comrades-in-arms have opened the door to me although I cannot, while you are our guest, repeat their warnings to you, particularly since these deal with your thinking and your method of threats and provocations.

First I would like to assure Your Excellency that this letter expresses my personal views and that it is a response to certain actions that preceded your government's decision to annex the Golan -- actions in which you played a major part.

This letter, General Sharon, deals with two subjects:

First: Allow me to address you directly. Since you took over the Israeli Defense Ministry your policy has been one of escalating provocations. This is not my view alone. It was your comrade-in-arm former General Haim Bar-Lev who initiated the attack on you. He is a so-called hawk, like you, and the man who devised the Bar-Lev line which the Egyptian fighters destroyed in the first days of the October epic in Sinai. Your comrade, General, has accused you of things that I cannot repeat here because his accusations were harsh and insulting. One of the least things he said about you is that he cannot sleep while you are defense minister since you called for a military attack against the Syrians. Bar-Lev was not alone in cautioning against such a thing. Another general, Mordekhay Gur, your former chief of staff, also attacked you and accused you of the same thing.

The second subject of the letter, which is the more important, is this:

You submitted to a special conference of the Institute of Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University an amazing working paper. What is amazing about it is not the title you chose for it, which is "Israel's Strategic Problems in the Eighties," but something more provocative and outrageous. What the paper contains would be a return to the epoch of Hulago, ruler of the Tartars. In the paper you drew up Israel's security map over a wide area of land. Land has always been and still is your principal obsession. This map covers several continents; it stretches along a belt including Pakistan, Turkey and Iran -- which you know were previously Baghdad Pact states, and you recall what happened to that -- and extends to include the Arab countries, reaching across the African Continent. I will not, Your Excellency, General, discuss your views on Israel's military role in cooperation with the United States, but I would pause at your statement in the working paper to the Institute of Strategic Studies of Tel Aviv University that "because of the nature of military forces today, which have become mobile, armored and mechanized, and because of the technological development of the modern weapons possessed by the Arabs, we are facing within our present borders the same defense problem we faced in 1967."

Allow me, General, to make three observations and to give you three pieces of advice:

The three observations are:

First, the threat that Israel's defense problem within its present borders is the same as existed within its 1967 borders.

According to your paper this means that you have two borders: territorial borders and security borders. It is to be understood from this that you are overstepping Security Council Resolution 242, which you have accepted. It is also to be understood from this that the annexation of the Golan is an expansion of the present Israeli borders and that this annexation is a prelude to other expected expansions, all of which is an indicator to a future war, after your Prime Minister Menahem Begin pledged that the Yom Kippur War was the last between Egypt and Israel.

Second: Any official, military or political, intending to make a friendly visit to another state takes into consideration international usage and custom before making such a visit. For example, when the French minister for external affairs visited you he made press statements which caused strong reaction in the Arab countries, which he soon altered when he realized that they were offensive to the Arabs whom he intended to visit soon.

Third, your emphasis on building more and more settlements in the occupied territories and encircling Jerusalem with a forest of settlements is a deliberate defiance of international laws and Geneva agreements; it also constitutes a violation of an important part of the Camp David agreement, about which you say "it alone and nothing else is implementable."

As for the three pieces of advice, they are:

First, I would like you, Your Excellency, General, as you talk in the language of the superpower which you imagine has the monopoly of strength in the world, to refer to the history of Britain when it was great and had an empire on which the sun never set. When Britain under its late Prime Minister Anthony Eden was laying down the strategy of its military role in the fifties, it launched the implementation of this strategy through military collusion with you and France in the 1956 tripartite aggression, which marked the beginning of the end for Britain, which became merely the United Kingdom and no longer great.

Second, I would like you, Your Excellency General Sharon, to consider the fact that we are a basic parr of the Arab nation and that we cannot be isolated from future events. The fact that we now support our brothers and friends in the Security Council against your decision to annex the Golan Heights is an expression of an established fact -- that we do not accept any detraction from the Palestinian people's rights, whatever the conditions and implications may be.

Third -- and this is the most important piece of advice, which I urge you, Your Excellency General Sharon, to accept because it is the opportunity of the decade -- is that you should declare your acceptance of the Saudi peace plan and all the other Eastern or Western peace initiatives and enter into negotiations to implement all the plan's provisions as an indivisible whole. Get involved in this experiment if you want stability and friendship with the Arabs. After that, all the fear complexes whether with regard to the Palestinian charter or other things, will be dispelled. Put the historical myths behind you for they are one of the perilous traps for peoples.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO VISIT ISRAEL IN FEBRUARY

NC211115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA) -- Cairo's AL-MUSAWWAR magazine reports that, to confirm that relations between Egypt and Israel are normal, Egypt has informed Israel and the United States that President Husni Mubarak will visit Israel the last week of February.

In its edition to be published Friday, the magazine says that Egypt has also notified Israel that any attempt on its part to exploit President Mubarak's visit in any action, such as that which took place following the late leader Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Sharm ash-Shaykh -- when Israeli aircraft attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor to create an untrue implication between the timing of the visit and the attack on the reactor -- will have a negative effect on the normal relations between the two countries.

NATIONALIST OPPOSITION HOLDS THIRD CONFERENCE

PM191551 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jan 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Cairo Bureau report]

[Text] Within the framework of the celebrations marking Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's 64th birthday, the nationalist forces in Egypt, comprising all the political forces opposed to President as-Sadat's policies, held their third conference at the headquarters of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUGP]. The conference was attended by representatives from the NPUGP, the Socialist Labor Party, the WAFD Party, and the Egyptian Community Party, as well as independent figures.

The first and second conferences were held before President as-Sadat's death and represented the highest point of conflict between the opposition and the regime of the late president.

The third conference witnessed the fiercest open condemnation of As-Sadat's era and policies. It also demonstrated support for President Mubarak's policy to introduce fundamental changes in the conditions that prevailed under As-Sadat's regime.

The conferees urged the cancellation of the 5 September decisions, the reinstatement of the remaining journalists, the immediate release of political detainees, and abolition of the state of emergency.

'Abd al-'Aziz ash-Shurbaji, former lawyers' doyen and member of the higher secretariat of the neo-WAFD party, said: We had decided that, after our release from detention, we would begin a battle to liquidate the vestiges of As-Sadat's regime, but then we promised to wait and begin a new clean sheet so that nobody else will be left in the detention camps and so that innocent people will not be attacked. The time has come for us to make sacrifices for the homeland. The time has come for all the crimes committed under As-Sadat's regime to be rectified.

Fu'ad Nushi, member of the Higher Committee of the Socialist Labor Party and official in charge of the party's information department, said: We must root out the remnants of corruption and we must stage a revolution to liquidate the lackeys of Anwar as-Sadat. We should unify our ranks. We want to determine the broad outlines of future political action. The year 1982 must be the year of "the national front." He called for the immediate abolition of the emergency laws and for the elimination of corruption.

Nabil al-Hilali, member of the International Federation of Lawyers and secretary of the Egyptian Communist Party, said: This conference comes after President Mubarak's call at the end of 1981 for a new leaf to be turned over. Indeed, some glimpses of hope are already beginning to appear on the horizon.

[NPUGP leader] Khalid Muhyi ad-Din did not attend the conference because he was abroad at the time. The NPUGP statement was delivered at the conference by the party's higher committee member Dr Fu'ad Mursi. He cautioned President Mubarak that he will not be able to liquidate the past regime's centers of corruption unless he relies on the nationalist forces which are prepared to cooperate with him. He added: All the emergency laws should be abolished, including the ethics and values laws, and the [post of] the socialist prosecutor should also be abolished. Party newspapers should be allowed and there should be free elections. The opposition forces are quite clearly against the Camp David agreements but they are with President Mubarak if he wants to liberate Sinai in his own way. If he cannot, then they will be with him under the slogan "What was taken by force can only be regained by force." If Israel refuses to withdraw in April, will not weaken Husni Mubarak but will give him more strength, and he can embark on a great national struggle for the liberation of Egypt and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that contacts are currently under way among the parties and nationalist forces to speed up the formation of the national front, now that many of their differences have been resolved during the period of detention.

LINOWITZ MEETS WITH MUBARAK, OFFERS COUNSEL

NC191207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak this morning received in Al-'Urubah Palace U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz, former personal envoy of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the Middle East.

Following the meeting, which lasted about 60 minutes, Linowitz told reporters that his visit to Egypt was a private one and that it was a good opportunity to meet with President Mubarak.

He said: President Mubarak and I are close friends. We met before for long periods. At today's meeting we exchanged viewpoints.

Answering a question on whether he is expected to take part in the peace process in the figure, the former U.S. envoy said: I have done this before, but all I can offer today is expertise and advice.

Answering another question on whether he discussed with President Mubarak today developments in the Middle East situation and the possibility of other parties joining the peace process, he said: No, I did not discuss the situation in general but, as I said, I am not here in an official capacity. We are friends exchanging viewpoints.

AL-AHRAM ON HAIG, AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS

PM200831 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jan 82 p 1

[Ibrahim Nafi' editorial]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig must have left Cairo with three main impressions after his lengthy meetings with President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian negotiating team.

The first impression is that Egypt rejects any pressure for compromise solutions to the autonomy problem as well as any pressure aimed at establishing a link between the achievement of a final agreement on this matter and the final Israeli withdrawal from Egyptian territory, in any shape or form.

Although this was not part of the U.S. concept and although it did not arise at any level of the talks, the Egyptian side did make its position on this point clear, leaving no room for doubt or confusion. Mr Haig concentrated on the need to give impetus to the peace process in order to reach a successful formula for Palestinian autonomy. He said he came to the region to pinpoint differences and trace their origin and that he was not carrying any new ideas or concepts. Egypt's reply was that it is interested in the continuation of the peace process and is ready to negotiate in the hope of arriving at a reasonable "declaration of principles" acceptable to the people concerned with the main issue, regardless of dates and regardless of whether this takes a month or a year to achieve.

The second impression is that Egypt cannot make any concessions on rights that are not its to make. President Husni Mabarak said: "I cannot forfeit any Arab rights in the name of Egypt and I will never let Egypt be the target of Arab and international accusations, especially on a matter that concerns the rights, future and fate of others. This is out of the question, and it would be illegal to do so."

In the autonomy negotiations Egypt is talking about a definite interim period until the Palestinians, owners of the land and the main cause, join in and until Jordan, which is as concerned about the question of security as Israel, joins in. Accordingly, Egypt does not want to prejudice any issue that affects their future.

This attitude stems from the absolute conviction that the Camp David agreements include numerous basic "principles" which can be specified, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the agreements. The vital details relating to the Palestinians and the Palestinian administration on the one hand and Jordan or Israel on the other are part of the very essence of the Palestinian rights, because they concern their will and affect the daily economic, social and security needs of the people.

The third impression is the idea that Mr Haig might have had before coming to the region, namely that an agreement on Palestinian autonomy could be achieved within 1 or 2 months, must have come into collision with the truth, with reality. The Egyptian stance is principled and consistent and, as we have said, it adheres to the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements.

However, statements made in Israel at all levels before he arrived there indicate that Israel still clings to its old views and attitudes, which aim to close all doors in his face and to deny him any chance to talk or form an idea.

What is more important than all this is that Haig must himself have become aware of the Egyptian concept of real Palestinian autonomy and of the Israeli concept, on which Israel insists and which is nothing more than setting up a municipal council to deal with administrative matters.

The Egyptian position is quite clear and consistent, we can sum it up as follows:

1. Autonomy means exactly the withdrawal of military administration and the transfer of its various powers to the Palestinians, not merely rearranging the conditions already existing in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli concept of autonomy is different. It maintains that autonomy derives its powers from the Military Government and the administrative council derives its powers from the military government, which is the one to determine the legality of the council's decisions. This means that autonomy should be a new facet of or cover for the Israeli occupation.

This is why Egypt is stressing that the autonomy body is a self-governing body whose authority stems from within it, and that no external authority can impose itself on it. This concept of autonomy cancels out the concept that draws a distinction between "the people and the land" and permits the swallowing up of Arab land and the exclusion of its Arab inhabitants to give the state a Jewish character.

2. As we have already said, Egypt believes that the autonomy authority is a "temporary arrangement" that will ultimately lead to the settlement of all aspects of the Palestinian problem and the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right of self-determination. This is the answer to the Israeli view that autonomy is the final stage leading not to Palestinian self-determination but to the consolidation of Israel's control of the occupied territories -- which contradicts the Camp David agreements.

3. Quite objectively, autonomy should include all executive, judicial and legislative powers. The seizure of Arab Jerusalem, the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the application of Israeli laws to the Golan Heights, the beefing up of Israeli settlements, and finally the restriction of autonomy to executive powers to the exclusion of legislative powers all undermine the significance of autonomy and turn it into a set of partial measures and formalities rather than fundamental steps.

Despite all this, Egypt will continue to negotiate at the technical and ministerial levels, while it is not unlikely that Haig will visit the region again for bilateral or trilateral talks, it is completely out of the question for him to embark on rapid shuttle visits, because the gap between the Egyptian and Israeli concepts is too great.

Israel may have some apprehensions, but that is a different matter.

COMMENTATOR SEES REAL PEACE WITHIN REACH

NC201643 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Muhammad al-Balbisi commentary]

[Text] The positive results the joint Egyptian-Israeli higher committee achieved in Cairo yesterday provide, as of 25 February, for the permanent presence in southern Sinai of representatives of the Egyptian administration, from various ministries and organizations. They will supervise the establishments in the region preparatory to raising the Egyptian flag over all of Sinai on 26 April. These important, positive results are considered by all criteria as a real historic achievement and a success for Egyptian policy, which seeks the establishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

These results actually express several important facts which must be taken into consideration when discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict. The first fact, which we have missed for a long time, is that peace is not something which is impossible, rather it is something that is attainable if intentions are sincere and there is a sincere determination to attain peace.

Before 19 November, 1977, the chances for peace were merely speculation, tantamount to the working of miracles. However, Egypt's sincere intentions and its desire for peace made it possible to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles, and the impossible became possible.

The second fact is that Egypt's calculations concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict were correct and sincere calculations because Egypt was sincere with itself, and therefore Egypt's view of the chances of resolving this conflict was the most sincere and applicable view, if we take into consideration the local, regional and international circumstances surrounding the issue. This does not mean that Egypt seeks to deprive others of the right to hold various views on this question, but that Egypt places the result it managed to achieve as a living example which can be followed by others to facilitate matters and save effort and time.

The third fact is that despite the difficulties and the hurdles, we and Israel were able to accomplish this magnificent achievement along the path of real peace. Therefore, we, Israel and the United States, the third partner in the peace process which is proceeding smoothly, can prepare the appropriate framework for settling the Palestinian question -- on the basis of justice, realism and respect of man's rights -- by agreeing on a draft declaration of principles regarding the question of full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This declaration must stipulate the full rights of Palestinians to exercise their legislative, judicial and security affairs, in addition to their political and other daily affairs, as a first stage toward the establishment of their independent state in the region in their capacity as a regional ethnic group having its distinguished characteristics and inalienable historical rights in addition to its ambition and right to live as any other ethnic group in the region.

If we do this -- which, as we said, is something that it is not impossible -- we will have implemented the great principles and goals which we have been and are still seeking. In all simplicity, these are the principles of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We also will have paved the way for the possibility of living in peace in our region; away from the afflictions of war and devastation, so that the peoples of the entire region may devote themselves to the process of building, progress, well-being and prosperity.

COMMENTARY CALLS FOR U.S.-PLO DIALOGUE

NC171411 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Bayyi ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary]

[Text] We will add nothing new if we say that the Palestinian issue is the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that a settlement in a manner that realizes the aspirations of all the parties to the conflict would likely defuse the Middle East crisis, ease tension and spread security and stability in the area.

On the basis of this fact, which is well known to everyone who has been following the crisis from near and far, Egypt launched its peace initiative. The Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty were concluded and the dialogue on full Palestinian autonomy was initiated. All these things were primarily designed to solve the Palestinian issue.

In reviewing accomplishments since November 1977, no fair person can deny the positive role played by the United States and its sincere participation in the peace efforts. However, the issue now demands an objective look, because many violations have taken place and many positions demand a degree of clarification so that the cards will not be mixed up or efforts not lost down side roads.

For example, the U.S. President has reiterated his refusal to conduct a dialogue with the PLO so long as the organization, as he said, does not recognize Israel. In view of the strong U.S. relations with Israel, its responsibilities as a great power and its honest desire to promote the peace process, we are entitled to pause a little to discuss President Reagan's statement. We cannot see any relationship that prevents the conduct of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue or the conduct of any Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. In fact, the neutral position which Washington should maintain demands that it listen to the views of the PLO on the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We think that Washington has already conducted a dialogue with the organization in the past, as when the organization played a positive role in the release of a U.S. ambassador kidnaped in Beirut and when Washington was able to conclude a truce between the organization and the Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The question now is: If Washington conducted a dialogue with the organization on important issues for which the organization deserved the thanks of U.S. officials, why doesn't the U.S. administration try to hold a dialogue with the organization on the Middle East crisis and on mutual recognition with Israel?

President Reagan says that the PLO wants to hold onto the nonrecognition of Israel as a bargaining card at the negotiations table. We do not disagree with the U.S. President that this could be the case, but isn't it possible that if it holds a dialogue with the organization Washington could succeed in promoting the Palestinian and the Israeli sides to exchange direct recognition thus Washington could contribute positively toward bridging the gap between the two parties to the conflict and ensure a speedy settlement to the crisis?

Washington's refusal to conduct a dialogue with the PLO does not contribute to the narrowing of the differences between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. On the contrary, it helps to harden their positions. General Sharon announced yesterday that Israel is determined to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip area.

Therefore, Egypt's proposal regarding the need for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO is, in our view, the best way to narrow the differences. Hence, it is necessary for the United States to reconsider its position toward the PLO and establish a bridge of dialogue with it to prompt all the parties to speed up a settlement of the Middle East crisis with a view to realizing the aspirations of all the parties to the conflict.

DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWS SINAI, U.S. TIES, LIBYA

PM2101153 Cairo MAY in Arabic 18 Jan 82 p 3

[Interview granted by Egyptian Defense Minister and Minister of War Production Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah to Sana' Sa'id in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the interview he said: Egypt's policy is to maintain peace with everybody and with all parties. We do not want incitement or provocation. Egypt is approaching a great and splendid event, namely the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in 95 days.

[Question] Are you sure the withdrawal will take place as scheduled?

[Answer] Withdrawal measures are proceeding quite normally. There are no problems, and the withdrawal will be completed on schedule.

[Question] With regard to President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming U.S. visit, can we look forward to developing U.S. arms supplies to Egypt?

[Answer] The person who determines the objectives of this visit is the president himself. But I can predict that the visit will deal with bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States in all fields, including the strategic situation, external threats, and economic and military aid. This will be announced in due course, and I am here merely expressing personal views.

[Question] But are you looking forward to development U.S. arms supplies to Egypt?

[Answer] Just as we look forward to increasing U.S. economic aim, we also look forward to increased military aid. Particularly since there is now a military imbalance in the region. This imbalance cannot be rectified or balance restored unless Egypt stands on its feet economically and militarily and is strong.

[Question] Some people say the military balance between Israeli and the Arab countries is tilted and unfair, which encourages Israel to launch operations in the region that threaten the region's safety and security.

[Answer] It is established in military science that any country enjoying military superiority over its neighbors often resorts to military action rather than to negotiations in dealing with problems. Here we would say that, if there were a military balance between the forces, nobody would resort to a military solution, because each party would be afraid of the other. When I say there is a military imbalance in the area, this is based on the fact that Egypt was not compensated for the arms it lost in the 1973 war. Egypt's Army must be strong. Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor and concentrated forces in southern Lebanon because it is aware that there is no force in the area to match it. The same can be said about the decision to annex the Golan. If Syria were as strong as Israel, for example, then Israel would not dare do that, because there would at least be a deterrent. If I am strong, you will think twice before you strike me.

[Question] Al-Qadhdhafi recently called for toppling the regimes allied with the United States, and certain reports indicate that Egypt is one of the principal targets of Al-Qadhdhafi.

[Answer] These are rhetorical statements. We have no aggressive designs against anybody. All that we aspire to is to develop our country and live in peace.

[Question] But Libya still suspects that Egypt and Sudan are opposed to it.

[Answer] We have no designs on Libya, we have no aggressive intentions and we plan no form of aggression against Libya. The treaty between us and Sudan is a joint defense treaty and not an offensive treaty or a defense alliance against anybody. The defense element here is clear. It means defending our borders against any external threat.

[Question] What about the situation regarding Egyptian military concentrations now on the Libyan borders?

[Answer] We have no concentrations on the Libyan borders, Egypt has never had military concentrations on the Libyan borders. There are only guard forces. We are just like any country guarding its borders.

[Question] If Libya allies itself with the Soviet Union, this will lead to a tremendous change in the balance of power in the region, particularly in view of Libya's strategic importance.

[Answer] I hope that no such alliance will take place between Libya and the Soviet Union, because if it happens it is bound to be directed against a particular country. I wonder, against whom would such an alliance be directed?

[Question] It could be directed against Egypt.

[Answer] If it is to be directed against Egypt, it will be wrong, and if it is directed against anybody else, then we have nothing to do with it.

[Question] On the other hand, there is a prevalent relief that Syria is considering making a strategic cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union. What would be the implications of such an agreement, if concluded?

[Answer] Such agreements would heighten tension in the region and are in no one's interest. Nevertheless, Egypt has no intention of interfering in other countries' affairs.

[Question] Can Egypt, as a countermeasure, look forward to concluding a strategic cooperation agreement with the United States?

[Answer] There is no reason to justify that.

[Question] As a defense measure in the area?

[Answer] Against whom?

[Question] The Soviet Union, for example.

[Answer] There is nothing to involve us in a conflict with the Soviet Union or any other country.

[Question] Would Egypt participate in a U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in order to confront any dangers to the Gulf?

[Answer] We do not participate in any rapid deployment force. We only say that if any Arab country needs our help then we offer it willingly.

[Question] Is it possible, on the other hand, to form an effective deterrent force in the area if countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Oman seek to form an alliance with Egypt and Sudan?

[Answer] Every country should build up its own armed forces in order to be able to deter threats. This requires a capable force and determination as well as the ability to convince the adversary that you have a capable force. All world countries are today seeking to establish deterrent forces. We hope the Arab world will have such a deterrent force, whose purpose should be to prevent rather than to commit aggression.

[Question] But can Egypt look forward to forming a strategic consensus against any external threat?

[Answer] The Arab area needs an integral security. In other words, there should be a plan to secure the Arab area. We wish that the Arabs would return to one another and cooperate in this regard, because we cannot separate the danger threatening the Gulf countries from that threatening the Red Sea. The area is one. The Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, the eastern Mediterranean and all the areas adjacent to them are regarded as one strategic area.

Therefore there ought to be one security plan. This will come about only if all the countries cooperate. I with my manpower and the other with his money. It is natural that the Arabs should cooperate in peace and lay down a security plan for this Arab nation, in order to repel the designs of the outside world. The world covets Arab oil and the Suez Canal because of its importance to maritime routes. It also covets Egypt because it is the "navel" of the Middle East, and whoever controls it controls the whole area. We are facing the same designs and we ought to cooperate together to repel them. It is a known mathematical equation that the security of the Arab nation equals comprehensive security.

[Question] What about the Red Sea equation?

[Answer] The Red Sea must be an Arab lake. Security for that lake can be achieved only if the Arabs have a naval force capable of maintaining its security, a force that will not be directed against anybody but will prevent anybody from tampering with the Red Sea, so that stability will prevail.

INFORMATION MINISTER REPORTS ON CABINET MEETING

NC201709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA) -- The Cabinet met this morning under Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to discuss the economic, foreign and domestic policies, as well as the supply situation and the bills which the government will submit to the People's Assembly during its current session.

Following the 4-hour meeting, Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif said that the Cabinet reviewed Egypt's foreign policy in the light of a statement made by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. It also discussed the situation pertaining to the recovery of the remaining part of the Sinai.

Concerning the autonomy talks, Ash-Sharif said that the Cabinet reviewed the outcome of the intensive meetings held recently, both on the level of the technical committees and the level of the higher committees, to identify the points of disagreement and the points of agreement between Egypt and Israel.

Ash-Sharif said that the points of disagreement as explained by Kamal Hasan 'Ali are represented by Egypt's adherence to its stand concerning Jerusalem. Egypt does not approve of the annexation of east Jerusalem and has asserted the importance of the application of all the principles of autonomy to east Jerusalem, as part of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Egypt insists on the establishment of an absolute executive and legislative authority for the land and the inhabitants.

Ash-Sharif said that 'Ali also explained to the Cabinet the problem of the land, which is summed up in the fact that 1/3 of the land is owned by the inhabitants and there are attempts by the Israeli side to seize it, 1/3 of the land is owned by absentees who have emigrated or to Islamic religious trusts, and 1/3 of the land is state land, which is either unexploited or on which settlements are being built. Any control over these lands might mean that settlements could be built on them in the future. This would be an obstacle in the way of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and the Camp David agreements, which call for withdrawal to certain specified points.

Morever, Egypt cannot approve of any agreement that harms the Palestinian issue or that affects the Palestinians when the stage for self-determination is reached. Egypt also finds it important that the executive and legislative power should apply to everything that exists on the land.

Ash-Sharif said that 'Ali also reviewed for the Cabinet the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. 'Ali said that Haig is playing a fundamental role in bringing viewpoints closer, that his efforts are continuing and that he will return to the area to visit Israel on 27 and 28 January and then Cairo on 29 and 30 January.

Concerning the measures for the return of the remaining part of Sinai, Ash-Sharif said: Recently we followed up the meetings of the higher committee between the Egyptian and Israeli sides. This committee studied the outcome of the meetings of the subcommittees and registered some difficulties. From the outset, Egypt's position was clear with regard to its full sovereignty over its territory. There are no problems or difficulties in this connection and both sides clearly acknowledge this.

Ash-Sharif added that there is an Egyptian-Israeli committee whose task is to demarcate the international border on which there is no disagreement whatsoever. The main work of this committee is to demarcate the border inside the town of Rafah. As we know, there is a Palestinian Rafah and an Egyptian Rafah. During the last 10 years, some Palestinian refugees have been moved from the Palestinian Rafah to the Egyptian Rafah.

Ash-Sharif said that this joint committee will work to solve the social problems and identify the buildings to minimize the losses for the Palestinian and Egyptian citizens since the demarcation line affects about 300 houses in the Rafah area.

Ash-Sharif said that Prime Minister Dr Fu'ah Muhyi ad-Din and the ministers affirmed that the solution of this problem will have absolutely no affect on Egypt's international and historic borders.

The minister of state for information said that the value of the installations and utilities on Egyptian land in Sinai, which will be returned on 25 April, have been assessed by specialized technical committees. A financial agreement has been signed between the two sides; according to this agreement, Egypt will pay 134 million pounds to Israel.

Ash-Sharif then enumerated the installations and utilities which Egypt will take over. In Sharm ash-Shaykh, for example, Egypt will take over 350 houses and their utilities, one 200-bed hotel, an environmental studies school, one youth hostel, which can fully accommodate 2,000 youths, and 200 feddans of arable land. In northern Sinai, Egypt will take over 350 housing units with their utilities, 800 feddans of cultivated land in addition to the utilities -- telephones, water network, and pumping stations for 36 water wells.

Ash-Sharif said that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali explained to the Cabinet Egypt's diplomatic moves on the international and African levels and pointed out that this year an African summit will be held in Tripoli and a nonaligned states summit will be held in Baghdad.

Explaining Egypt's stand on these two conferences, Ash-Sharif said: It is known that Egypt gets invited to these conferences. The decision to attend or not attend these two conferences, and on what level, is a political decision which will be taken in due course. However, preparations are underway for an Egyptian move on the level of the nonaligned states and the African states in this regard.

Ash-Sharif added that Ghali emphasized the success, on a general level, of the Egyptian role in Africa, of the full coordination of the Egyptian and Sudanese diplomatic moves, and the Egyptian moves to bolster relations among the Nile basin states.

Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt's role in Africa and in the nonaligned states is a positive role, that there is coordination among Egypt, India and Yugoslavia, and that a technical seminar -- to be attended by Egypt, India and Yugoslavia -- will be held in Cairo at a date to be fixed soon to discuss some aspects of the Nonaligned Movement.

On the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, Ash-Sharif said that the Cabinet reviewed the implementation of the various trade, cultural, tourist and information agreements and protocols and the exchange of delegations in these domains. He said that Egypt and Israel are making clear strides along the path of normalization and that there are no sensitivities or problems in this respect.

Ash-Sharif said that at the beginning of the meeting, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din reviewed the current stage since the Cabinet's last meeting and stressed the importance of the relationship between the ministers and the Consultative Council members. He said that dates should be fixed for meetings between the ministers and the council members and that an open house be set for visits by the People's Assembly members to the ministers in their offices to acquaint them with the masses problems and to study any issues of concern to the government and the assembly. Dr Muhyi ad-Din also discussed with the Cabinet its relationship with the fourth estate -- the press. He explained that it is important for the communication channels between the chief editors, ministers and the journalists to always be open, and that the journalists should be furnished with all the information necessary so that any statements which are published and attributed to the ministers may reflect truth and reality, so that the picture may be clear to some of the journalists colleagues. He said: We want realistic information which will highlight what is right and true, and which does not stumble because of completely unrealistic ambitions and hopes. This is what the government declared in its policy.

Ash-Sharif said that Dr Fu'ad Muhi ad-Din mentioned that the government's statement to the People's Assembly on 6 February will be short and specific, and that it will not repeat what was contained in the previous statement but will contain new policies which the government will submit for the period up to the end of the current year.

Concerning the plenary economic conference called for by President Husni Mubarak, Dr Muhyi ad-Din said that it has been decided to hold this conference on 13, 14 and 15 February to discuss the economic course in all of its aspects. He explained that he is preparing for this conference as well as for the discussions and the topics that will be submitted by economic experts and the parties. He added that the new economic policy that will be agreed upon will come into effect as of the new fiscal year 1982-1983.

Ash-Sharif said that the Cabinet then discussed the new legislation and bills which will be submitted to the People's Assembly, the most important of which are a bill on urban planning and a bill establishing a register for importers. There is also a bill organizing employment offices so as to preserve the dignity of Egyptian workers abroad and eliminate middlemen. There is a bill on emigration. There is also a bill on administrative control, whose role will be combat deviation. It will be rational control and not security control. It will keep an eye on violations and the negative practices which existed in the past. It will be a scientific control in a new style.

Ash-Sharif noted that Dr Muhyi ad-Din also spoke about the General Congress of the National Democratic Party [NCP] which will be held on 26 January to elect a chairman for the party. He said that the NDP Political Bureau has nominated President Husni Mubarak for the post of the chairman of the party. He added that the NDP General Congress will also elect the leaders and members of the party in accordance with the basic law of the party.

Ash-Sharif said that Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha then reviewed the domestic situation, affirming there is more stability and more positive developments.

Ash-Sharif said that Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Ahmad Nuh then spoke, affirming that there are stable and sufficient stocks of food supplies in addition to the quantities which are being imported as a reserve. He also affirmed that there are no problems connected with these stocks.

JAPAN TO INCREASE ECONOMIC AID BY 23 PERCENT

NC191101 Cairo MENA in English 1000 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak met today with Japanese Finance Minister Michio Watanabe and his accompanying delegation, with the Japanese ambassador here T. Yamazaki attending.

The Japanese minister said following the 60-minute meeting that the Japanese policy regarding extending economic aid to Egypt did not and will not change.

He described the talks with the president as "good," adding that he informed the president that the Japanese Government has agreed to increase the economic aid to Egypt and and that the aid will be raised by 23 percent.

He added that Japan will extend 40 billion yen (about 200 million dollars) to finance seven projects, including the second stage of deepening and developing the Suez Canal. He added that the second stage amounts to 50 million dollars.

The Japanese minister added that he discussed with President Mubarak the Middle East crisis and added that President Mubarak asserted anew Egypt's commitment to continuing the peace process.

He added that President Mubarak expressed appreciation for the aid and assistance extended to Egypt by Japan.

He added regarding Egypt's economic policy President Mubarak had informed him that he gave his directives to the economic experts and that their views will be submitted to the economic conference to be held on February 13, following which the broadlines of Egypt's economic policy could be defined.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 590

JN201655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes today raided enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, inflicting grave losses on them. Explosions were heard in some while others were set ablaze. Communique No 590 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command put the known enemy losses during the past 24 hours at 25 killed and 1 gun, 1 vehicle, 2 observation posts and 1 stockpile of ammunition destroyed. The communique said that Iraqi losses amount to 15 martyrs in all sectors.

The following is the text of Communique No 590 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With a high preparedness for sacrifice and readiness to achieve more victories over the arrogant Persian enemy, our armed forces continue their operations in the operations theater. Following are the results for last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our units struck the enemy with all weapons opposite their positions in the Abadan area, inflicting on it nine killed and two observation posts destroyed.
B. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite one of our units in the Gilan-e Gharb area. Our forces struck it killing seven and destroying one stockpile of ammunition.
C. Four were killed in the Nowsud area.
D. Three were killed in the Mehran area.
E. Two were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
F. One gun was destroyed in the Sumar area.
G. One vehicle was destroyed in the Shush area.
H. Throughout today, our fighter planes raided enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, inflicting grave losses on them and on enemy personnel and equipment. Our ground units and advanced observation posts saw explosions and fire in the enemy positions and concentrations. All the Iraqi planes returned safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 25 killed and 1 gun, 1 vehicle, 2 observation posts and 1 stockpile of ammunition destroyed.

II. Our losses: Fifteen martyrs in all sectors.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BAHRAINI AMIR

JN201721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received this afternoon Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of labor and social affairs and personal envoy of the Bahraini amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

The Bahraini envoy delivered to his excellency a written message from his brother his highness the amir of Bahrain, reassuring His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the sound domestic situation in fraternal Bahrain and reiterating Bahrain's support for Iraq in its just war against the Persian enemy's greed for expansion and for the honorable Iraqi stands on Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

Envoy Leaves

JN201807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA) -- A Bahraini envoy has ended a short visit to Baghdad, during which he conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from the Bahraini amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

In a statement before leaving Baghdad this evening, the Bahraini envoy, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, minister of labor and social affairs, said the Bahraini amir's message dealt with the strong brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and the Gulf situation in light of what the mean sabotage conspiracy exposed against Bahrain. He said: I sensed an understanding by President Saddam Husayn of the dimensions of these issues. He added that Iraq's courageous support for Bahrain is not something new for Iraq. Iraq's stand on Bahrain in particular and Arab issues in general is clear and known to every one.

VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF PAYS VISIT TO VIETNAM

For coverage of Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf's visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, including meetings and talks with President of the Council of State Truong Chinh and Vice President of the Council of State Nguyen Huu Tho on 19 and 20 January, respectfully, see the Vietnam section of the 20 January Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

BRIEFS

INA-ADN PROTOCOL -- Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA) -- Guenter Poetschke, director general of the GDR news agency ADN, left Baghdad for home last night at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, he met with Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, and signed a protocol on information cooperation with INA for the years 1982 and 1983. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0380 GMT 20 Jan 82 JN]

PHALANGIST LEADERS DISCUSS PERCY BRIEFING

NC201423 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Front postponed its weekly meeting today, instead of holding a meeting between former President Camille Sham'un, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, Lebanese Forces Commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil and U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Charles Percy. The meeting lasted from 1030 until noon at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Robert Dillon. A general discussion took place which dealt with important details of the various aspects of the Lebanese issue in light of the current changes and developments in the area.

After the meeting, Sham'un replied to a number of questions by newsmen. He said: We had an orientation meeting with Mr Percy on the questions of Lebanon and the Middle East. Our orientation concentrated on Lebanon's sovereignty and the withdrawal of all the armed foreigners from its territory. He added: Percy did not propose any kind of assistance. But it appeared to us that the Lebanese issue constitutes a priority as far as the United States is concerned. We emphasized, on our part, that the Lebanese crisis is separate from any other crisis, be it Palestinian or Arab. Sham'un considered Percy's coming to Lebanon in itself a U.S. initiative, in addition to -- according to Mr Percy -- Ambassador Philip Habib's return to the area to work for the Lebanese issue.

Sham'un was asked whether the Front was asked for specific proposals. He answered: Our proposals are that there should not be one single armed foreigner on Lebanese territory.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil supported Sham'un's statements, adding: We acquainted Percy with the Lebanese issue in depth and we heard his view in this regard. We emphasized that the Lebanese issue be given the attention it deserves, particularly in view of the Lebanese people's suffering during the 7-year ordeal. He added: We noticed that the United States is putting its political weight on the demanded solution for the Lebanese crisis. We hope that this time the results will be good and tangible since we are close to despair from the initiatives and the various kinds of exploration tours.

Lebanese Forces Commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil said: Senator Percy understands Lebanese conditions and is one of the personalities who helped us at the U.S. Senate, particularly regarding the Zahlah incidents and afterward. He indicated that the discussion dealt with developments in the Lebanese arena. We hope the future political U.S. decisions will be commensurate with its understanding of the Lebanese issue.

Senator Percy Departs 20 Jan

NC201440 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Charles Percy left Beirut at 1330 today. He was seen off by U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon and senior staff of the U.S. Embassy.

During his visit to Lebanon, Percy met with top officials and a number of political leaders.

About the results of his talks, Percy made a statement at Beirut airport, in which he said: I would like to express my gratitude and personal greetings to the Lebanese people for their kind hospitality. In my capacity as chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I came to Lebanon to help the Lebanese people in overcoming the ordeals they are experiencing. President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig are busy working to restore peace to Lebanon.

Percy added: My discussions with the Lebanese officials were very fruitful. From them I learned how difficult the Lebanese people's crisis is. He said: This morning, I met with President Sarkis, Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Minister Butrus. I cannot but express to you how much I admire President Sarkis' ability in confronting what Lebanon is facing. President Sarkis explained the prevailing situation in the area. Together, we reviewed relations concerning Lebanon and the United States. I also met with several Lebanese personalities, like forme Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, former President Camille Sham'un, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil.

Percy added: My visit to Lebanon is compatible with the Lebanese people's desire to achieve lasting peace in Lebanon. He said: The discussions with the Lebanese officials dealt with the phase of the new presidential elections in Lebanon in an atmosphere free of tension. This is in keeping with the desire of President Reagan and Secretary Haig. He added: The discussions also dealt with another important subject to which reference must be made. This subject is the extent of Arab interference in Lebanon and also the subject of south Lebanon. I visited the Lebanese-Israeli border last month and saw what is happening there. I also commend the maintenance of the cease-fire agreement in Lebanon.

Senator Percy said: Lebanon has a special place with us. It is a democratic country based on democratic foundations just as is the United States.

Percy also expressed his feelings about the good relations he has with the Lebanese community in the state of Illinois.

He said: On behalf of President Reagan and the U.S. administration, I convey heartfelt greetings to the Lebanese people, wishing that peace be restored to all of Lebanon.

Percy concluded his statement by saying: I am now going to London to meet with British officials to discuss the possibility of working together to resolve the Middle East problem.

AMBASSADOR TO UN ON SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE

TA210635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] Last night Syria's draft resolution in the UN Security Council met with failure. The U.S. veto prevented the Security Council from approving a resolution recommending the imposition of sanctions against Israel in order to cancel, as the resolution phrased it, the annexation of the Golan Heights and deter Israel from implementing the annexations. Nine countries voted in favor of this resolution: the Soviet Union, China, Poland, Spain, Uganda, Togo, Guinea, Zaire and Jordan. Five abstained: Britain, France, Ireland, Japan and Panama and one, as stated, used its veto and that was the United States. A nice surprise at the last moment was Panama, about which there was fear that it would join the supporters in the voting of the resolution and at the last minute, as stated, it abstained.

In a talk with our correspondent, Shalom Qital, after the use of the veto in the Security Council, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, said that the Golan Heights issue will continue to occupy the United Nations and is not being dropped from the agenda.

[Begin recording] [Blum] At this stage, I would refrain from any conclusion, because it is clear that this is not the end of the affair. We have here a sort of pause, a sort of breathing space, but, according to all the signs, there will be a continuation.

[Qital] What will the continuation be?

[Blum] At this moment it is difficult to guess on this matter. The Jordanian ambassador, at the end of the Security Council meeting, asked for the council to continue to deal with the Golan Heights issue and for the president of the council to be authorized to reconvene the council at the appropriate time. This request was granted without argument, so that it is very possible that in another few days, or later, the Security Council will be reconvened. There may be a request to convene an emergency General Assembly meeting, but, as stated, there are many possibilities.

[Qital] The United States used the veto. A month ago the United States joined the majority in the Security Council in a unanimous resolution condemning Israel. Today there was a U.S. veto. I am sure that you are pleased about this but, on the other hand, the United States was alone.

[Blum] Well, the resolution a month ago, to be precise, did not condemn the State of Israel but appealed to Israel to repeal the Golan Heights Law and we have since then explained the reasons for the law's approval. It is clear that we are not very pleaseed about the fact that countries such as Britain and France abstained in today's voting, when there was a draft resolution on the council's agenda calling for the application of sanctions against Israel. This is grave and I think we will find the way to bring our concern and our feelings to the attention of the countries involved.

[Qital] There are two countries, perhaps we could call them marginal countries from the aspect of their positions: one is Zaire, the other Panama. All the time Zaire had reservations about the Syrian proposals and in the end it supported the Syrian draft resolution; the other, Panama, abstained in the end. How would you sum up the attitude to positions of these two countries, Zaire and Panama?

[Blum] I would say that we accepted with satisfaction the fact that a country such as Panama, with whom we have correct diplomatic relations, drew the right conclusion from the bilateral relations between Panama and Israel and, in the end, abstained from voting.

[Qital] And, as far as Zaire is concerned?

[Blum] As is known, our relations with Zaire are different [from those with Panama]. At this moment we have no diplomatic relations with Zaire, but it is clear that Zaire's vote in support of the Syrian-Jordanian draft resolution was a disappointment for many of us, not necessarily only Israelis. [end recording]

LINOWITZ INTERVIEWED ON AUTONOMY POSITIONS

TA201253 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Former U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz met this morning with Israel's foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir. Tomorrow he will see the prime minister. Linowitz, who is on a private visit and came here from Egypt, says he will be handing Prime Minister Begin a message from President Mubarak, which he describes as covering substantive issues. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked him whether in his talks in Egypt and Israel he had sensed a point of departure for a breakthrough.

[Begin recording] [Linowitz] I think breakthrough is a rather strong word. I did find commitment on both sides to the Camp David process. When I met with President Mubarak yesterday in Cairo he certainly was unequivocal in his assurance that he remains firmly committed to the Camp David process, that he hopes that they will move forward in the autonomy negotiations and that there is promise, he thought, of ultimately reaching agreement. Certainly that is what I heard from Foreign Minister Shamir that he believes that there is an importance in accelerating the pace, in trying to move toward an agreement. So I think there is no question that both sides would like to see an agreement on autonomy.

[Question] It was during your time as autonomy negotiator that both Israel and Egypt drew up a position paper saying what they saw as framework for autonomy and what they disagreed to. Do you sense a change in either the position of Egypt or Israel?

[Answer] I would say that there is some modification of position. It's hard to judge how much at this juncture. As you know, I am no longer in the same official capacity, but in my judgment there is enough promise of progress so that there should be a more intensified effort to deal with these problems and find solutions.

[Question] Enough promise of progress, perhaps, for an agreement by April?

[Answer] Certainly that is what Israel says it is seeking, and certainly the United States had indicated a desire in that direction. I think that the Egyptians are somewhat less focused on the April 25th date than the others, but there's no question they are as desirous of reaching an agreement ultimately.

[Question] Mr Ambassador, perhaps the United States has gotten into the talks a little too late to prompt them to move forward toward a quick solution to the negotiations. Has the United States gotten in, as far as the Reagan administration....[unfinished question as heard]

[Answer] Oh, no. I don't believe tha at all. I do believe that perhaps there might have been a more intensive involvement by the United States earlier, but no, I think that if we now become deeply involved and pay the role of full partner as Camp David envisages, we can be very helpful -- and should be very helpful -- in moving the parties toward agreement. I have always thought an agreement was possible. I continue to believe it. There are no insoluble problems here, and if the parties will sit down together and work conscientiously and unremittingly I am sure an agreement can be reached. I thought so then; I think so now. [end recording]

Ambassador Linowitz also said that he does not see himself acting as an autonomy negotiator again.

ALGERIA

ALGIERS REPORTS ON ALGERIAN-LIBYAN LEADERS' TALKS

LD201304 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] On the occasion of Libyan President Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Algeria, Algerian-Libyan talks continued yesterday at presidential level, concentrating on cooperation between the two countries. The talks were attended by Foreign Minister Ben Yania and Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official of the party Central Committee Permanent Secretariat.

Various private talks covering education, trade, economy and finance also were held between the various particular delegations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech

LD211038 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] Within the framework of his working visit to Algeria, promoting unity, the brother leader of the revolution met students of universities, secondary schools and various institutes in Algiers at noon yesterday at Al-Sanawbar Lecture Hall. He made a speech on the occasion, extolling the Algerian people's struggle, which was crowned by independence. France, he said, until recently claimed that Algeria was a part of French territory, but the struggle of the Algerian people has shown that Algeria is a part of the Arab territory. The independence of Algeria is an historic gain for the Arab nation and is a strategic achievement which has consolidated the freedom and independence of the Arab homeland. We constantly stand in admiration and appreciation of the great sacrifices which the Algerian people have made, giving a unique example of self-sacrifice. This is a glory which has been accredited to the Arab nation, thanks to the struggle of the Algerian people. The Arab nation made a great sacrifice, but the Algerian people made a sacrifice which is worthy of admiration and even sanctification.

The brother leader added: The question which is facing this new generation is: What comes after the sacrifices made by the Arab nation? Is it acquiring regional emphasis which pulls them back into their shells and which once more makes them easy prey for colonialism? The brother leader added that we speak as one nation and one family. The reality of the present phase, however, belittles the sacrifices which were made by the Arab nation, since the continuation of the present Arab situation is but a consolidation of regionalism and secession, and will lead to a situation which is worse than it was before [as heard] colonialism. Restrictions and borders placed before the sons of one nation express a bad situation which is being experienced by the Arab nation. This crime is being committed by regimes pursuing the path of secession; these regimes are in trouble and are exposed to questioning by the Arab nation. Every one of those who have regional interests seeks power and is ruling the masses who are the losers in the end and who are making themselves the basis for individual rule. In view of this bad situation, the Arab nation is exposed to being swept away by the enemy. All existing facts point in that direction. The enemy, after the fall of Palestine, has moved into the second circle. A Zionist empire is being built on the ruins of the Arab homeland now that the enemy has established its air presence once more -- by flying over the Arab countries. Submission and humiliation have become regular meals which the Arabs take every day. Two million Jews are humiliating 150 million Arabs. For this we have to thank the Arab regimes which created a protectionist umbrella for the enemy and have done harm to the Arab nation, to its honor and its history.

The brother leader said he who obstructs the path of unity is a criminal and is biased toward the enemy. It is time the word of the Arab masses is heard because what is taking place in the Arab homeland is not in accordance with the will of these masses; it is falsification. The brother leader said the Arab regimes who prevent political and economic unity are stopping one Arab country from meeting its needs -- needs which are available in another Arab country. The brother leader stressed that for the first time unity is being discussed scientifically and not emotionally; the struggle for Arab unity used to be raised without any significance; the Arab unity which we are presenting is a unity of the masses [jamahiyi] which replaces authority, wealth and arms in the hands of the people, which abolishes all borders and under which everything belongs to the masses. The brother leader said that the awareness of the Arab masses should be awakened so that it becomes strong and so that it removes from its path the falsehood and humbug of regimes who everyday are proving their inability to confront danger and are preventing the Arab masses from fighting the enemy; they are enemy number one, before Israel and the United States. In view of this, it is inevitable that there is a popular movement which stands up to the danger; the Arab masses cannot achieve this except by removing these regimes; it is high time we remove the masks off the ugly faces of these regimes.

The brother leader said: I am speaking as a revolutionary outside a position of authority, which belongs to the popular congresses and people's committees. We, as revolutionaries, are encouraged by the unity action taking place between Libya, Algeria and Syria. We do not believe in something termed Arab solidarity or the unity of the Arab rank which receives a signal from the United States. We reject slogans and believe only in Arab unity. The Arab masses in Algeria, Libya and Syria are qualified to call for Arab unity. The real wieght the struggling Alerian people have in the Arab Maghreb is relied upon to realize Arab unity. The establishment of unity between Libya and Algeria is the responsibility of the Algerian people. I do not believe that a people who has given 1 million martyrs does not accept Arab unity.

The brother leader added: If we, the Arabs, are united, we will be stronger than the United States and more effective due to our potentials because we are more authentic and have more honor than the United States; we are the builders of civilization; we have taught the world; we have heralded monotheism by our arguments and swords. We are now facing a test with regard to the realization of unity between Algeria and Libya and between Syria and Libya. The brother leader added: I acknowledge the unity-promoting quality of President Chadli Bendjedid and his colleagues who struggled for the freedom of Algeria and not for power. I regard the officials in Algeria as strugglers and not rulers.

Concluding his speech, the leader said: A new Arab generation brought up amidst the sound of rifles and in the climate of Arab unity [passage indistinct]. The Arab masses, he said, must come to realize that they are in danger -- danger which is moving toward them. Addressing the masses of students in Algeria, the brother leader said: You are not secure from this danger; it is growing day by day; the Arab masses must be prepared to prevent any backtracking of unity; the independence of any Arab state without this is exposed to danger.

SUDAN

INDUSTRY MINISTER ADDRESSES POLITICAL LEADERS

JN191311 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jan (SUNA) -- Addressing a meeting of the political and executive leaders held yesterday to discuss President Numayri's proposals submitted last Sunday, Industry Minister Muhammad al-Bashir al-Waqi' said that President Numayri had submitted an issue which occupies a serious place in the Constitution. He said that the conferees do not have a constitutional law qualifying them to do other than express their opinion as citizens. He wondered if the application of the presidential system would lead to mistakes. He stressed that his own opinion is that the Sudanese people cannot be led by anyone other than President Numayri.

Talking about some of the issues submitted, he asked if we had burdened ourselves with a larger development programme than we can shoulder and if we wanted to carry out a 30-year development in just 10 years. He expressed his conviction that the main big mistake was that we were too ambitious and our insistence that this generation should shoulder the burdens of development. He stressed that these two matters do not go side by side.

He also talked about the sensitivity with which the slogan of national reconciliation was discussed, indicating that national reconciliation is a primary national issue. He said that the issue of reconciliation should be clarified and discussed without sensitivities.

Al-Waqi' wondered if there is freedom of expression, if the information media is sufficient and if the two newspapers AL-AYYAM and AS-SAHAFAH fully represent Sudanese opinion. He wondered if there is need for other newspapers and if so, who should they belong to. He called for a third newspapers and if so, who should they belong to. He called for a third newspaper to express what cannot be said bythe citizens in various fields within certain disciplinary limits without defamation and so forth.

He stressed encouragement for opposition within the People's Assembly and asked about the right to demonstrate. He said that the citizens do not exercise their rights properly and added that they are under the impression that there is a dictatorship. He said they do not know their constitutional and legal rights although the constitution has guaranteed such rights for them. He said that Sudan has turned into a free land for everyone.

He said that political work cannot be a job but a serious responsibility requiring faith. He expressed his opinion that corruption lies in the fact that the Sudanese people's interests are sold and bought in the market and not in the minority of employees who are bribed. In this regard, he referred to what has been published in the Egyptian press about corruption.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MINISTER PROMOTES 'CENTRAL AFRICANIZATION'

AB201305 Paris AFP in French 1103 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Bangui, 20 Jan (AFP) -- The CAR minister of civil service, labor and social security, Brig Xavier-Sylvestre Yangongo, called on heads of companies to fully apply the policy of "Central Africanization" of staff instituted by the authorities.

"Central Africanization," the brigadier said, should be done methodically with due consideration to the professional qualifications of those concerned.

The CAR minister promised to make available highly qualified staff to employees who express the need. In this connection, General Yangongo said, the regulations governing the employment of CAR youths trained by the state will be reviewed to facilitate their integration into the private sector.

The CAR minister said he felt the private sector should help to revive the economy through new investments.

CHAD

HISSEIN HABRE CRITICIZES FRENCH 'ATTITUDE'

AB201620 Paris AFP in French 1520 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Abeche (eastern Chad), 20 Jan (AFP) -- Hissein Habre, head of the FAN, says he does not wish for any military solution to the Chadian crisis, is happy about the arrival of the inter-African neutral forces to his country, but accuses the French Government of being the number one obstacle to peace in Chad.

In an interview granted on Friday to an AFP journalist who is in the eastern zone of Chad controlled by the FAN, Hissein Habre, former defense minister expelled for rebellion by President Goukouni Oueddei in the spring of 1980, accused Paris of pouring oil on the flames.

It is Paris which is fanning the flames of war by delivering large quantities of material to the Ndjamena government, thus pushing Goukouni into a blind intransigence, deceiving the OAU and forcing Africans to fabricate some legitimacy for Goukouni, he said.

According to the FAN chief, the French Government tried to hide behind the OAU to justify its attitude on the resolution adopted during the last OAU summit held in June 1981 in Nairobi, Kenya. But it was Paris and Tripoli which schemed to impose that resolution; they remote controlled it through their African valets.

In Nairobi, the African heads of state decided to support President Goukouni Oueddei's government unconditionally and send an inter-African neutral force to maintain peace in Chad.

But, Hissein Habre said, there were some courageous heads of state, members of the OAU, who stood up to say: No, we do not want to play that game. There is no question of fighting the FAN by serving as mercenaries for Paris.

For, according to him, the French Government is doing everything to have the OAU forces fight in Chad, to let Africans become mercenaries in its pay to assassinate the FAN.

This desire of President Mitterrand is not different from that of his predecessors, De Gaulle, Pompidou, and Giscard, who sent legions to break up Chad in order to maintain Tomalbaye, (former Chadian president assassinated in 1975) in power, he continued.

Hissein Habre is not hostile to the presence of the inter-African neutral force in Chad, which currently is composed of soldiers from Zaire, Nigeria and Senegal. Since the OAU does not want to play the neocolonialist and imperialist game of Paris, since it refuses the manipulations of Paris and Tripoli, we think that our African brothers are trying to contribute to the restoration of peace, security, stability and unity in Chad, he stated.

(?We will not) obstruct their action at all, although the decision to send them was made without the FAN, which was not consulted in anyway. We intend to facilitate the task of what is known as the peacekeeping forces in Chad and cooperate with them if they so wish, he adds. Therefore, we do not at all consider their presence an obstacle.

The only thing we demand from these forces is absolute neutrality. These African brothers should be conscious of their role and their responsibility to help the Chadians to settle their problems, he continues.

"This is because we want a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem, the FAN leader explains. We believe that it can only be solved through a frank and sincere dialogue aimed at achieving peace, national reconcilitation and unity in Chad. We have said this right from the beginning of the war and the time the antinational coalition violated the Lagos accords which provided for the formation of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) presided over by Mr Goukouni Oueddei.

I do not think that maximalism is the best solution, he continues. We of the FAN have no intention of imposing a solution on Chad's geographical and social diversities. Rather, we wish to come to an agreement with the various groups in Chad; that is why we are not counting on a military victory. However, he stressed, we want foreigners to leave the Chadians alone to solve their problems and they should not try to impose a solution on Chad.

Questioned about the agreement reached between Sudan and Chad during President Goukouni Oueddei's recent visit to Khartoum and presented as the dropping of Hissein Habre by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, the FAN leader indicates that Sudan has never helped the FAN. Although some personalities of the FAN pass through Khartoum, Sudan has never given us a single cartridge.... It is therefore ridiculous to talk of a dropping, he says.

In fact, concludes Hissein Habre, we think Sudan is trying to effect a reconciliation among the Chadians and this is important.

Since the withdrawal of the Libyan forces from Chad last November at President Goukouni's request, Hissein Habre's troops have successively taken over the localities of Adre, Guereda and Iriba near the Sudanese border as well as the Abeche and Biltine prefectures. At the end of December, they captured without opposition the strategic axis of Doum Hadjer, which opened for them the access to Ati, situated 400 kilometers from Ndjamena. More recently, they captured the town of Faya-Largeau in the Borgou-Ennedi-Tibesti Subprefecture in the extreme north of the country.

GHANA

NUNOO-MENSAH GIVES PRESS INTERVIEW IN LAGOS

AB201857 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] says it has no intention of causing bloodshed and in this regard persons found guilty by the proposed people's tribunal will not be shot. This assurance was given by Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah, chief of defense staff and member of the PNDC, in a press interview in Lagos, Nigeria.

Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah, who was heading a five-man good will mission to Nigeria, was commenting on objections raised by the Ghana Bar Association on the setting up of the tribunal. He stressed that the PNDC believes in the rule of law. What it is opposed to under the normal legal system is its attendant adjournments. He remarked that things take too long and we have more important things to do than trials. He explained that persons appearing before the tribunal will be given all facilities including counsels of their choice to defend them.

Asked when the PNDC will hand over power, Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah answered: "Hand over power to whom?" The chief of defense staff then declared: "This is a people's regime. It is the government of the people. It is a national government." Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah said very soon the PNDC will come out with the list of a civilian government. He explained that the PNDC will be the supreme policy making body while the Cabinet will implement decisions.

He urged all Ghanaians who ran away during the takeover to come home if their hands are clean. He emphasized that there is no witch-hunting in Ghana. This is shown by the fact that the PNDC did not go around arresting ministers. Even in the first few days of the revolution, nobody looked for President Limann until he tried to leave his official residence.

Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah denied allegations that Libya was behind the takeover in Ghana. He said Ghana wants to be friends with everybody who wants to be her friend. That is why the PNDC is talking to the Libyans.

The chief of defense staff said the delegation is in Nigeria to emphasize Ghana's friendship, noting that Nigeria has the capability of helping Ghana. He said the fact that many Ghanaians have gone to Nigeria to work shows that all was not well in Ghana. He said the purpose of issuing exit permits in Ghana is not to prevent people from leaving the country, it is to make sure people whose hands are not clean do not leave the country.

Earlier, the delegation had held discussions with their Nigerian side led by the minister of state for external affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba.

PNDC SAYS 'TOP OFFICIALS' FRUSTRATING COMMITTEES

AB192043 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] says it has come to its notice that certain top officials in some establishments and state institutions are doing everything to frustrate the formation of people's defense committees in their various places because they are frightened by the bold initiatives being displayed by the ordinary people. Some managers are also trying to terrorize workers who want to expose corruption at their workplaces.

In a statement issued today, the council asked all such officials in their own interest not to attempt to put themselves in the way of the current revolution. It said managers and other top officials who are clean, honest and dedicated have nothing to fear from the people's committees which will certainly recognize the clean and good ones and give them their due.

The statement made it clear that ordinary people everywhere -- workers, farmers, fishermen, soldiers and policemen -- who have been suppressed, have the right to initiate their own defense committees without waiting for instructions from anyone just as senior staff and other top officials have their own associations.

These committees are expected to defend the rights of the ordinary people, expose and deal with corruption and other counterrevolutionary activities at their workplaces and their communities, to maintain collective national discipline and supervision of the national resources and to afford everyone the opportunity to participate in the decisionmaking process in the country.

The statement recalled that after the June 4 uprising, a number of patriotic soldiers, policemen and workers were victimized by the former People's National Party government and no top official or manager stood up for the rights of those patriots. Once again, people have laid down their lives to initiate the present revolution and these sacrifices cannot be in vain. The greatest tribute that can be paid to the memory of those gallant men is for the workers, farmers, soldiers, policemen and others to ensure that the power which they have won since 31 December is never taken away from them. That is why the initiative has been thrown to the people themselves with all these committees so that they can defend themselves against anyone who tries to take away their right again.

The statement stressed that the PNDC will not accept the situation in which the impression is created that the defense committees are imposed by the council or any other person in authority. The council is aware that power is Ghana has for a long time been exercised by a small clique of powerbrokers. In the main, these people are faceless but they control the politics, economic wealth and prosperity of this country. These people rest in the lodges and other secret societies whose membership is restricted to themselves.

An important objective of the revolution, the statement declared, is to thrash out these powerbrokers so that they can be known for what they are. The revolution is also meant to transfer power from this small group of greedy, avaricious bandits to where power really belongs -- farmers, workers and ordinary people. The transference of power is achieved by the people organizing themselves into these defense committees to expose the selfish powerbrokers; their notorious activities, such as corruption; and organize themselves into productive units. In this regard, the council will not shield any top official who puts himself in such a situation as to obstruct the genuine articulation of these democratic rights by deprived workers, policemen, soldiers, farmers and others.

The statement added that managers and top officials must not attempt themselves in any way in the formation of workers defense committees which must be formed by the workers.

COUNCIL DISMISSES TIMES DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AB192114 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has ordered that the deputy director of the Ghanaian TIMES, Mr Ekoh Esuman, should proceed on an indefinite leave with immediate effect. A statement from the office of the PNDC said he is to be replaced by Mr Owusu Sapong, also of the Ghanaian TIMES. The statement said the post of supervising dditor for both the Ghanaian TIMES and the DAILY GRAPHIC has been abolished.

UPPER VOLTA

MINISTER DISCUSSES ARREST OF LIPAD LEADERS

AB191557 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Excerpts] L'OBSERVATEUR readers must have read in today's issue an article reporting the friction between the Patriotic League for Development, LIPAD, and the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress. There have been rumors on the arrest of some members of the league and the seizure of its newspaper, LE PATRIOTE. To get more information concerning this problem, reporters from the national radio and television and the Upper Voltan press agency visited Justice Minister Bema Ouattara who is acting for the interior minister.

[Begin recording] [Question] Eugene Kacou of the Upper Voltan press agency: Mr Minister, according to persistent rumors confirmed this morning by the daily newspaper L'OBSERVATEUR, our colleague LE PATRIOTE and some leaders of LIPAD have been arrested [as heard] while copies of LE PATRIOTE have been seized. Can you confirm this news?

[Answer] You are now in the Justice Ministry. It is good that I should make it quite clear to the listeners that I am not speaking as the justice minister but as the acting interior minister. As you know, my colleague has been absent since yesterday and I have been asked to act for him. It is true that some LIPAD leaders were arrested on Saturday within the context of an administrative inquiry connected with the publication of the magazine LE PATRIOTE. It is also true that those concerned are now being detained.

[Question] Souleimane Compaore of the Upper Voltan television service: Mr Minister, can you tell us the identities of those arrested and the reason for their arrest?

[Answer] As I have just said, they were arrested following an inquiry. The inquiry has not yet been completed [words indistinct]. At present, the main leaders of LIPAD who were in charge of LE PATRIOTE and who were arrested are: Felix Quedraogo, manager of (Prenotango), whom you certainly know, Mr Coulibaly Amido, LIPAD employee. Apart from these LIPAD leaders, the manager of the national press, Mr (Henri) Ouedraogo, also was arrested.

[Question] Sakobi Quedraogo of the national radio: Mr Minister, there are also rumors that some tracts have been discovered. It is said that these tracts, which were signed by 13 trade unions, call on affiliated workers to strike. Can you identify these trade unions?

[Answer] In the afternoon of 15 January, the manager of the national press informed the secretary general of the Interior Ministry about the printing of the cover of the magazine LE PATRIOTE by his establishment. He added that the cover seemed very shocking to him and that he had, therefore, held up its delivery. It should be noted that this cover carried a picture of (Tresouna) with quite a violent quote by him. Following this information, the Interior Ministry issued instructions to the police who, at about 1215 on 16 January, went to LIPAD headquarters where the newspaper itself was being printed. LIPAD prints the newspaper from stencils while it has the cover printed elsewhere. At LIPAD headquarters, the police seized the newspaper pages already printed as well as the stencils not yet used. While there, police also found a two-page tract dated 14 January and calling for a general mobilization for the struggle and signed by the 13 trade unions.

[Question] Souleimane Compaore of the Upper Voltan television service: Mr Minister, you have just given us the reason for the arrest of the LIPAD leaders. Now, what is the fate being reserved for the 13 trade unions which signed the tract seized at LIPAD headquarters?

[Answer] This tract signed by 13 trade unions calls for a general mobilization for the struggle. Well, I don't know what form this struggle was to take. We have precise and clear laws. If this struggle is to be in the form of a strike, we know the law that should apply. But if it is to take other forms that could bring about an infrigement of the penal code, the appropriate laws will be applied.

[Question] Sakobi Ouedraogo of the national radio: Mr Minister, why was the manager of the national press arrested since he first sounded the alarm?

[Answer] He assured the interior minister that he halted delivery of the 2,000 covers he printed. When the interior minister sent the police to seize these covers, the policemen affirmed that the covers had already been delivered. Why? Is this a little trick to cover himself [words indistinct]? His action is suspicious, therefore, he is now being detained like the others until the situation is clarified. [end recording]

BRIEFS

NEW HEALTH MINISTER -- By presidential decree, Wobba Maxime today was nominated Upper Voltan minister of public health. He formerly was the director of public health. [Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 7 Jan 82 AB]